

**THE MINUTES OF THE HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
JUDICIARY**

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

9:00 a.m.

Room 521 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Judiciary was called to order by **Representative Paul Condino**, Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Condino, Coulouris, Bieda, Corriveau, Meadows, Meisner, Scott, Warren, Schuitmaker, David Law, Elsenheimer and Rick Jones.

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Representatives Virgil Smith, Stakoe and Rocca.

Representative Bieda moved to adopt the minutes of the **May 16, 2007**, meeting. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Representative Schuitmaker moved to excuse absent members from the committee. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Chairman Condino laid **HB 4550** and **4551** before the committee:

HB 4550 Espinoza Criminal procedure; sentencing guidelines; sentencing guidelines for certain crimes involving animal abuse; revise to reflect increased penalties.

HB 4551 Espinoza Crimes; animals; abuse of animals; provide for increased penalties under certain circumstances.

TESTIMONY

Representative Espinoza, sponsor of HB 4550 and HB 4551, explained his bills to the committee.

The following people submitted a card and did not wish to speak:

Matt Bolger, representing the Michigan State Police, supports HB 4551.

Judy Oisten, representing herself, supports HB 4550 and HB 4551.

Tom Miller, President of the Michigan Association of Animal Control (MAACO), supports HB 4551. Mr. Miller submitted written testimony.

Terrence Mackillop, Director of the Roscommon County Animal Control, supports HB 4551.

Ernest Baker, representing the Branch County Animal Control, supports HB 4551.

Kimberlee Luce, Director of the Jackson County Animal Control, submitted written testimony in support of HB 4551.

James V. Young, Sanilac County Prosecuting Attorney, submitted written testimony in support of HB 4551.

Tina Vinokurow, James Matson and Danielle Galbenski of Sanilac County Animal Control, submitted written testimony in support of the bills.

Al W. Stinson, representing the Michigan Association of Pure Bred Dogs and the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation, testified and submitted written testimony in opposition to the bills.

Chairman Condino laid **SB 105** before the committee:

SB 105 Garcia Courts; state court administration; authority for magistrates to oversee arraignments; allow.

TESTIMONY

Senator Garcia, sponsor of SB 105, explained his bill to the committee.

Chief Judge Rosemarie Aquilina of the 55th District Court, testified in support of the bill.

The following people submitted a card and did not wish to speak:

Mark Gates, Deputy Counsel for the State Court Administrative Office, supports the bill.

Krista Krause, Attorney and Magistrate, representing the Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates, supports the bill.

Elizabeth Lyon, representing the State Bar of Michigan, supports the bill.

Representative Meadows moved to report **SB 105** with recommendation.

The motion prevailed by a vote of **11-0-0**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Condino, Coulouris, Bieda, Corriveau, Meadows, Scott, Warren, Schuitmaker, David Law, Elsenheimer and Rick Jones,

Nays: None,

Pass: None.

Chairman Condino laid **HB 4552** before the committee:

HB 4552 Byrnes Crimes; animals; penalties for animal cruelty; revise to allow consecutive sentencing.

TESTIMONY

Representative Byrnes, sponsor of HB 4552, explained her bill and submitted an *Ann Arbor News* article to the committee.

Julie Curtis, Cruelty Investigator for the Humane Society of Huron Valley, testified and submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

Rose Stern, representing the Animal Law Section of the Michigan State Bar, testified in support. Ms. Stern submitted an article from Penn Veterinary Medicine.

Beverly Kay McCollum, representing Classic Quarter Horses, testified in support of the bill.

Jim Irvine, representing himself, testified in opposition to the bill.

Linda Reider and **Mark Ramos**, representing the Michigan Humane Society, testified and submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

Al W. Stinson, representing the Michigan Association of Pure Bred Dogs and the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation, testified and submitted written testimony in opposition to the bill.

Rita Biddle, representing the Ingham County Kennel Club, testified in opposition to the bill.

Robert Cruickshank, representing himself, testified in support of the bill.

The following people submitted cards and did not wish to speak:

Matt Bolger, representing the Michigan State Police, supports the bill.

Judy Oisten, representing herself, supports the bill.

Tom Miller, President of the Michigan Association of Animal Control (MAACO), supports the bill. Mr. Miller submitted written testimony.

Terrence Mackillop, Director of the Roscommon County Animal Control, supports the bill.

Ernest Baker, representing the Branch County Animal Control, supports the bill.

George Carr, representing the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, indicated neutrality on the bill.

Kimberlee Luce, Director of the Jackson County Animal Control, submitted written testimony in support of HB 4452.

Chairman Condino laid **HB 4420** before the committee:

HB 4420 Constan Courts; district court; twentieth and twenty-first districts; combine.

TESTIMONY

Representative Constan, sponsor of HB 4420, explained his bill to the committee.

Dave Harvey, representing the City of Garden City, testified in support of the bill.

Joe Fivas, representing the Michigan Municipal League, testified in support of the bill.

Judge Richard Hammer, representing the 21st District Court and the Michigan District Judges Association, testified and submitted written testimony in opposition to the bill.

Due to time constraints the following people were unable to speak:

Greg Pitoniak and **Larry Steckelberg**, representing the Michigan Treasury Department, submitted a card in support of the bill.

Mark Gates, Deputy Counsel for the State Court Administrative Counsel, submitted a card indicating neutrality on the bill.

Brett Henderson from Government Consultant Services, Inc. (GCSI), representing the Michigan District Judges Association, submitted a card in opposition to the bill and did not wish to speak.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Representative Paul Condino, Chair
House Standing Committee on Judiciary
Malika Abdur-Rashid
Committee Clerk
517-373-7256
2 Hour and 17 Minutes